

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 01066 020747Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 H-02 CA-01 L-03  
PPTE-00 /037 W

-----085834 021153Z /13

R 020627Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5071  
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND  
AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
AMCONSUL PERTH  
AMCONSUL SYDNEY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
CENPACSARCOORD HONOLULU  
COGARD STA. PAGO PAGO

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 01066

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS: CASC: (EWING, MERCEDES)  
SUBJECT: W/W MERCEDES EWING; CATAMARAN "I LOVE YOU II

REF: WELLINGTON 00491 (NOTAL) AND 1001

1. LATEST RESUME OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE FOLLOWS.  
ON FEBRUARY 10, 1978, THE EMBASSY NOTIFIED THE EWINGS  
BY TELEPHONE THAT WRECKAGE REPORTED IN TONGA WAS  
DEFINITELY NOT FROM "I LOVE YOU II". CONOFF TALKED  
WITH MRS. EWING WHO INFORMED HIM THAT MR. EWING WAS  
GOING TO TONGA AND THEN TO NEW ZEALAND WHERE HE WOULD  
PROBABLY BE IN CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY AND NEW ZEALAND  
SEARCH AND RESCUE OFFICE (NZSR).

2. ON FEBRUARY 14 THE EMBASSY LEARNED THAT SOME  
WRECKAGE LOCATED SOME 300 MILES NORTHEAST OF NEW ZEALAND  
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FLOATING IN THE OCEAN COULD POSSIBLY BE PORTION OF  
"I LOVE YOU II" HULL. THE EMBASSY OBTAINED ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ON THE YACHT FROM THE COAST GUARD IN PAGO  
PAGO WHICH FURTHER SUBSTANTIATED THIS ASSUMPTION. AS  
MR. EWING WAS COMING TO NEW ZEALAND TO INVESTIGATE ALL  
LEADS IN CONNECTION WITH THE W/W OF HIS DAUGHTER WE  
PLANNED TO ADVISE HIM OF THIS LATEST INFORMATION AT THAT

TIME. MR. EWING CONTACTED CONGEN AUCKLAND PRIOR TO PERSONAL VISIT TO RUSSELL BUT NEVER CONTACTED THE EMBASSY.

3. CONOFF FIRST LEARNED MR. EWING HAD RETURNED HOME WHEN HE CALLED FROM THE UNITED STATES ON FEBRUARY 24. AT THAT TIME HE SAID HE WAS DISCOURAGED AND HAD GIVEN UP HOPE OF FINDING HIS DAUGHTER ALIVE. HE REPORTED A RUMOR THAT THE CREW OF THE "I LOVE YOU II" WAS INCARCERATED IN NOUMEA. THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED THIS TO SUVA FOR INVESTIGATION. MR. EWING HAD ALSO CONTACTED NZSR AND BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE LATEST WRECKAGE SIGHTING.

4. ON FEBRUARY 27, 1978, MR. EWING CALLED AGAIN TO ASK IF THERE WAS SOME WAY THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT COULD BE INDUCED TO LOCATE THE WRECKAGE AND IDENTIFY IT. NZSR OFFICIALS HAVE ADVISED US THAT THEIR NORMAL POLICY IS TO SEARCH ONLY WHEN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF SAVING LIVES.

5. ON FEBRUARY 28, AMBASSADOR SELDEN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM CONGRESSMAN JACK FLYNT, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE EWINGS AND OF THE AMBASSADOR, WHO EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN THE MATTER. AS A RESULT, THE AMBASSADOR HAS TAKEN THE MATTER UP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WHICH IN TURN HAS EXPRESSED ITS SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE NZSR OFFICE. NZSR HAS RE-CALCULATED THE PROBABLE WHEREABOUTS OF THE DRIFTING WRECKAGE SINCE ITS FIRST SIGHTING FEBRUARY 5, AND HAS GIVEN THOSE COORDINATES TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE EMBASSY. WE, IN TURN, IN WELLINGTON 1001, REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT TO ASK THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO AUTHORIZE THE USCGC BURTON ISLAND, NOW IN PORT IN WELLINGTON, TO CHECK OUT THE WRECKAGE DURING ITS PLANNED TRANSIT FROM NEW ZEALAND TO SUVA.

6. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO CONGRESSMAN FLYNT'S OFFICE. SELDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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